GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3507
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2002
MID-DAY-MEAL SCHEME
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foodgrains to the tune of Rs.31.07 crore meant for free distribution to Government, local bodies and Government aided schools were diverted and misutilized as has been brought out in the CAG Report No.3 of 2000 (Civil) page 98;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been inquired into;

(c) whether the mid-day meal scheme in the primary schools is not being implemented properly; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to improve the working of the scheme?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) and (b): According to the CAG report, in four States, namely, Kerala, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu foodgrains worth Rs. 31.07 crore were distributed among the students belonging to classes, other than Classes I-V.

The matter was taken up with the concerned State Governments. Government of Kerala have clarified that they have not utilized the foodgrains available under the Mid-day Meal Scheme for students of classes VI-VII.

Governments of Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu haveinformed that there were some instances of foodgrains utilized for students of pre primary/upper primary classes under the Mid-day Meal Scheme and the same has since been stopped.

(c) and (d): The Government has taken steps to improve the monitoring and supervision of the programme at all levels, create a greater awareness regarding the programme through involvement of Village Education Committees, streamline procedures so as to ensure regular supply of foodgrains and timely reimbursement of transportation charges and payment to Food Corporation of India and ensure a more rigorous role for the nodal agency for programme implementation at the State level.

In order to have a continuous assessment of implementation of the programme, Chief Secretaries of States and Administrators of UTs have been requested to arrange surprise checks of primary schools. Similarly, officers of the Departments of Elementary Education and Literacy and Secondary and Higher Education have also been asked to undertake surprise checks during their visits to States/UTs.